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GOVERNMENT OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

REPORT

ON THE WORKING OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES

IN THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE

31ST MARCH 1940

(1939-40)

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NAGPUR
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1941

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GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

Nagpur, the 7th January 1941.

READ—

The annual report on the working of the Department of Industries, Central Provinces and Berar, for the year ending the 31st March 1940.

RESOLUTION

Hitherto it has not been the practice of Government to issue a resolution on the working of the Department of Industries but now that the activities of the department are expanding rapidly and the post of a separate Director of Industries has been created, the Provincial Government has decided to issue a resolution reviewing the working of the department in the preceding year.

2. The outstanding features of the year under review were the decision to separate the post of Director of Industries from that of Registrar, Co-operative Societies, submission of reports by the Industrial Survey Committee which was appointed in 1938-39 and legislation relating to collection of statistics, regulation of cotton ginning and pressing rates and imposition of factory inspection fees with a view to making the factory department self-supporting. Government is glad to note that the expansion in the activities of the department in such branches as electricity, industrial education, training in cottage industries and promotion of subsidiary occupations was maintained. Full advantage is taken of the labour branch of the Department of Industries by both employers and employees in the adjustment of differences and settlement of disputes.

3. The Industrial Survey Committee presided over by Mr. J. C. Kumarappa reviewed the work done by the Department of Industries since its establishment and has made a number of recommendations for the reorganization of the department. The principal recommendation, *viz.*, to have a separate wholetime Director of Industries—was accepted by Government and has been given effect to since the close of the year. The Survey Committee carried out an intensive survey of 606 villages scattered all over the province with the aid of specially selected workers and has made suggestions to Government for the encouragement of nearly 30 village and cottage industries. Three volumes of the report of the committee have already been published and the fourth is under preparation. Government takes this opportunity to thank Mr. Kumarappa and the members of the committee for their labours which have given to the province valuable material for planning future industrial development.

4. The scheme for the utilisation of dead cattle did not turn out to be as successful as was at first hoped. There was growing opposition from kotwars whose vested interests were affected by the scheme. It is clear that until this difficulty is overcome the scheme cannot be expected to make any progress. Government is examining the question of the title of kotwars to dead cattle in the villages. Meanwhile the dead cattle scheme will remain under suspension.

5. Handloom weaving is the principal cottage industry in the province but Government regrets to observe that all attempts to encourage it through the Central Co-operative Weavers' Society and special marketing organisation have not so far proved successful owing to the attitude of the weaver community itself. The working of the society was recently examined by the Senior Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, whose report is now receiving the attention of Government. Government is satisfied with the efforts made by the Textile Expert to introduce new designs in cotton weaving, to introduce labour saving devices in looms and to stimulate interest in the improvement of tasar, silk and woollen industries of the province. The Provincial Government is indebted to the Government of India for financial assistance to these schemes.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Director of Industries, Central Provinces and Berar, for information. Ordered also that the resolution be published in Part I of the *Central Provinces and Berar Gazette* and circulated with the report.

C. C. DESAI,

Secy. to Govt., C. P. & Berar,

Commerce and Industry Department

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REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR, FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 31st MARCH 1940

[*The figures in parenthesis refer to previous year ending the 31st March 1939.*]

The combined charge of the Departments of Industries and the Co-operative Societies was held by my predecessor Mr. D. V. Rege, I.C.S., throughout the year. He also continued to be the Registrar of Trade Unions, Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Registrar of Firms and a nominated member of the two Railway Local Advisory Committees at Nagpur and several other bodies. He was also appointed Price Control Officer for the province during the year. A separate post of Director of Industries was created and I was appointed to it from the 1st May 1940.

Consequent on the death of Mr. C. L. Gupta, Deputy Director of Industries, the post was temporarily held by Rai Saheb P. K. Sen until it was abolished on 30th April 1940. Mr. C. M. B. Mersh, Electrical Adviser to Government, retired from service during the year and the post was temporarily held by Mr. S. M. Gole, Senior Assistant Electric Inspector. Mr. B. D. Jessawalla, Inspector of Boilers, proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement and Mr. H. G. Chaoji was appointed to officiate in the vacancy.

2. **Board of Industries.**—During the year one meeting of the Board of Industries was held which discussed various important schemes of the department.

3. **Railway Local Advisory Committees.**—The Local Advisory Committees of the Great Indian Peninsula and Bengal-Nagpur Railways held four and one meetings and my predecessor attended three and one meetings, respectively.

4. **Indian Boilers Act.**—A separate report published triennially by the Chief Inspector of Boilers deals fully with the subject. The total number of boilers inspected during the year was, 1,017 (982) of which 5 (7) were new boilers imported direct into the province and 8 (15) were transferred from other provinces. 11 (3) boilers met with accidents, none of which however resulted in any loss of life or injury to attendants in charge. No prosecution was instituted during the year.

5. **Factories Act.**—The annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Central Provinces and Berar, deals separately with this subject. The number of factories subject to the Factories Act was 1,140 (1,089) the increase being mainly due to the registration of rice and oil mills and miscellaneous factories. The Inspectors continued to bring to the notice of the injured operatives and their dependants the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The total number of accidents was 931 (841) and the compensation paid to the injured persons was Rs. 7,445 (Rs. 6,157). Payment aggregating to Rs. 11,197-11-9 (Rs. 10,493-8-9) was made to 793 (645) women under the Central

Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930. No epidemic was reported during the year in any industrial areas in the province. The wage level remained practically the same except for a slight reduction in the case of skilled workers due to competition in the labour market and new operatives being available on lower rate of pay.

INDIAN ELECTRICITY ACT

6. **General**.—Electricity is now available in 24 towns, *viz.*, Nagpur, Khandwa, Saugor, Burhanpur, Raipur, Hinganghat, Akola, Wardha, Amraoti, Jubbulpore, Khamgaon, Chanda, Yeotmal, Bilaspur, Katni, Gondia, Chhindwara, Harda, Arvi, Karanja, Akot, Seoni, Malkapur and Kamptee cantonment. The supply of electrical energy commenced at Malkapur during the year. The construction work at Shegaon and Itarsi has been started and it is hoped that the electric energy will be supplied to those places within the period prescribed in the licence.

The total capital invested in public supply undertakings is about 100 lakhs (96 lakhs). The capacity of generating plant installed in licensed undertakings and in factories is 38,124 (36,494) kilowatts. The use of electricity for industrial purposes is steadily increasing and there are now 2,884 (2,658) motors in use totalling 34,250 (33,870) B. H. P. There is a steady growth and expansion in the use of electricity in the province.

At the request of Messrs. Daroowalla and Company applications for Bhandara and Kamptee electric licences were kept pending for a further period of six months. Messrs. Industrial Service, Limited, Poona, were asked to deposit Rs. 30,000 before sanction could be given for supplying electrical energy to the town of Murtizapur. Schemes for the electrification of the towns of Damoh, Drug, Pusad, Ellichpur, Wun, Dhamtari and Pulgaon were under consideration. The application of Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company for supply of electrical energy to certain collieries and railway stations for a further period of 10 years has been submitted to Government for order.

7. The Nagpur Electric Light and Power Company Limited, has decided to change the system of supply from D. C. to A. C. in the Civil Station and the necessary plant and equipment has been ordered and it is expected that the change will be completed by the end of 1940. The Company has also secured a contract for the supply of electrical energy to the Kanhan water works. As the Khandwa Electric Supply Company has not adequately reduced the minimum charge and the rate for power the company has been asked to introduce further reductions. The Electric Supply Company, Wardha, has reduced miscellaneous and other charges. The Amraoti Electric Supply Company reduced the rate for lighting and fans to Re. 0-6-0. The company has been permitted to raise a loan at a low rate of interest for paying off the previous loan. The company has extended the power house building for accommodating additional generating plant to cope

with the increased demand. The Jubbulpore Electric Supply Company, Limited, has now offered an alternative power tariff with restricted hours of working in order to develop power load and encourage the use of electricity for industrial purposes. The Military Engineering Services have extended their high tension lines for supply of energy to military works under construction. The dispute between the Hinganghat Electric Supply Company and the municipal committee regarding revision of rates for pumping and street lighting has been referred to arbitration and it is hoped that the matter will be settled satisfactorily for both the parties. The Burhanpur Electric Supply Company has ordered a third generating plant which will be put in operation shortly. There are about 500 electric driven power looms and the number is increasing steadily. The Raipur municipal electrical undertaking is worked by the municipal committee which has now been dissolved on account of its mismanagement. The rate for lights and fans have been reduced to Re. 0-7-0 with rebate of Re. 0-1-0 from 1st October 1939. The Yeotmal Electric Supply Company has been advised to instal additional plant to cope with the increased load. The Central India Electric Supply Company, Limited, Bilaspur, has installed a 300 K. V. A. Turbo alternator set to effect economy in running and to provide for additional load. The Company has been asked to reduce rate for lighting to Re. 0-6-0 per unit. The Harda Electric Supply Company has installed a third generating set to avoid risk of stoppage of supply. As the Shegaon Electric Supply Company is unable to obtain delivery of generating plant ordered from Messrs. Skoda, Limited, the company has now to make other arrangements to obtain second-hand plant in order to commence supply of energy. The Itarsi Electric Supply Company, Limited, hopes to complete the construction work within the next few months. The original licensees have applied for permission to transfer the licence to the new company. The Kamptee Cantonment Electric Supply, Kamptee, is run by military authorities. It would be clear that the policy of inducing the electric companies to cheapen the rate for electricity and to make it available for industrial purposes is being progressively followed.

(*a*) *Installations in factories and mills.*—The use of electricity in factories for industrial purposes is increasing rapidly and the rates are reasonable for oil and flour mills and pumping installations, etc. Electric supply companies have been advised to reduce rates for power purposes and other miscellaneous charges to make electricity more popular and to bring it within the reach of the poor. Most of the companies have agreed to the suggestion.

(*b*) *X-Ray.*—The new X-Ray plant of large capacity and the most up-to-date design installed at the Mayo Hospital, Nagpur, is giving good radio-graphic results, and has proved of great benefit to the public. X-Ray plants are now installed in the hospitals at Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Amraoti, Buldana, Khandwa, Raipur, Akola, Wardha, Chanda, Bilaspur and Saugor. The installations are inspected and repairs attended to from time to time by the wireman who has been specially appointed from the 1st April 1939.

(*c*) *Laboratory and test room.*—One additional earth tester was obtained for the test room.

(*d*) *Fees.*—The scale of fees for the inspection of electric supply concerns, installations in factories of medium pressure installations, theatres, etc., has slightly been reduced in order to offer some relief to the owners of small installations while that for larger installations has slightly been increased. The fees recovered for tests and inspections amounted to Rs. 27,236-8-0 (Rs. 23,689).

(*e*) *Cinema installations.*—There are 61 (54) permanent and 38 (33) temporary cinema installations in the province which were inspected from time to time to enforce compliance with the cinema rules. There was a serious accident from fire in a cinema at Mungeli in which two operators lost their lives. The accident was not due to any electric defect but was caused probably by smoking in the cabin or use of old films which got stuck in the gear. Suggestions have been made to Government to amend the rules to prevent such accidents in future.

(*f*) *Accidents.*—Two fatal, one serious and eight minor accidents occurred during the year. The accidents were due to carelessness on the part of the persons concerned in handling electric apparatus and not to infringement of rules on the part of supply companies.

(*g*) *Statutory inspections.*—High and medium pressure installations were inspected twice and low pressure installations once during the year. Over 540 (508) miles of aerial lines together with all connected service lines have to be inspected annually.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

8. The number of Government and Government Aided Industrial Schools in the province was 3 and 10, respectively, including two new schools, *viz.*, (1) the Municipal Industrial School, Khandwa, and (2) the Industrial School, Darwha, started with effect from the 16th June 1939. Scholarship to pupils continued at a uniform rate of Rs. 6 per mensem each. The total number of pupils in all the schools at the beginning of the year was 589 (487). The number admitted to and passed out of the schools was 187 (285) and 142 (145), respectively. At the end of the year, the number of students in the schools was 487 (589) exclusive of those who left the course or were discharged for unsatisfactory progress. Of the students that passed 87 (97) were carpenters 47 (37) smiths and 8 (11) tailors. The progressive total of the students passed out was 1,573 (1,486) carpenters, 870 (823) smiths and 63 (55) tailors. The expenditure of Government on scholarships during the year was Rs. 38,469 (Rs. 36,688).

Basketry class, Deori.—The number of pupils at the beginning of the year was nine. The number admitted was 10, passed out six and left or discharged for unsatisfactory progress three, leaving 10 pupils at the end of the year.

Cottage Industries Institutes attached to the Robertson Industrial School, Jubbulpore, and Government School of Handicrafts, Akola.—The number of students at the beginning

of the year was 82. The number admitted to and passed out of the institutes was 58 and 56, respectively. At the end of the year the number of students was 84. Of the students who passed 23 were cotton weavers, 19 durrie weavers, 6 toy-makers and 8 cane workers.

Mochi class at Nagpur.—The number of pupils at the beginning of the year was 17 (16). The number admitted was 4 (5), passed out 5 (4) and left or discharged for unsatisfactory progress 3 (*nil*) leaving 13 (17) pupils at the end of the year. The progressive total of mochi students passed out was 76.

The thanks of Government are due to the missions and local bodies managing the aided industrial schools.

9. Reformatory School, Jubbulpore.—The number of boys in the beginning of the year was 153 (132). During the year 58 (39) were admitted, 44 (17) were released and one died, leaving 166 (153) boys at the end of the year. 57 (65) boys were taught carpentry, 36 (31) tailoring and 52 (18) gardening, 9 (10) were taught cane work and basketry and 12 (12) being of tender age were kept on light work. In the trades examination held by the Inspector of Industrial Schools, 61 (54) passed out of 62 (54). In literary subjects out of 147 (133) boys who appeared for the examination 111 (98) passed. The health of the boys was good.

Games are played systematically and supervisors take part in them. Hockey and foot-ball matches are arranged with the industrial school boys. Boys are permitted on occasions to bathe in the Nerbadda and visit cinema houses. Mohammadan boys are permitted on important festivals to attend mosque while Christians attend church. A separate room is set apart as a reading room, books are provided and reading is supervised. Boys also enjoy an hour's programme of radio music daily. Every endeavour is made to change the outlook on life.

10. Training of students at the All-India Village Industries Association Gram Sewak Vidyalaya, Maganwadi, Wardha.—The Vidyalaya imparts training in oil-pressing and paper-making by hand and gives special instruction in bee-keeping, paddy-husking and flour-grinding. Eleven students were deputed for training of which five were awarded certificates in paper-making, one in oil-pressing, three left the Vidyalaya and two failed and one is to be re-examined.

11. Industrial and technical scholarships in institutions outside the province.—Two scholarships of the value of Rs. 50 per mensem each tenable at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for two years, were awarded to Mr. L. N. Bongirwar, M.Sc., in Electrical Technology from the 19th July 1939 and to Mr. W. W. Joshi, M.Sc., in General Chemistry from the 11th July 1939, but Mr. Joshi relinquished his scholarship from the 24th August 1939 as he intended to proceed to England for higher study. One scholarship of the value of Rs. 35 per mensem tenable for four years at the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, was awarded to Mr. L. S. Ghate, from the 1st

November 1939. Four scholarships of the value of Rs. 35 per mensem each tenable at the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, were awarded during the year, *viz.*, two for Textile Industry and two for Electrical Engineering.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

12. **Textile branch.**—The Textile Expert was in charge of this branch throughout the year. The Weaving Superintendent was removed from service. The other sanctioned staff of two weaving teachers, one dyeing and printing demonstrator, two powerloom teachers, one weaving foreman and 16 cotton weavers remained unchanged. Under the sericulture (mulberry) scheme, one sericultural assistant, one rearer reeler and four servants were appointed besides one rearer reeler already in service. Under the scheme for the development of tasar silk industry, one tasar assistant and one rearer were appointed in addition to two fieldmen who were already in service.

(*a*) *Handloom Industry*.—The peripatetic weaving staff consisting of weaving teachers and cotton weavers visited 196 (188) centres in the districts of Nagpur, Chanda, Bhandara, Balaghat, Raipur, Bilaspur, Drug, Hoshangabad, Saugor, Nimar and Yeotmal and introduced 342 (304) fly shuttle sleys and 94 (51) dobbies. The progressive total of the improved appliances introduced by this branch is 19,706 (19,364) sleys and 3,203 (3,109) dobbies. Besides the introduction of the above appliances through the departmental agency the demonstration parties fitted 52 (52) fly shuttle sleys and 63 (101) dobbies locally purchased by the weavers, who were also assisted by the staff in repairing their looms, supplying them with accessories and designs and in the manufacture of cloth to suit the modern tastes. 50 (56) fly shuttle sleys and 69 (8) dobbies were introduced among the kosa weavers of Bilaspur district, raising the total number of such sleys and dobbies to 779 (699) and 99 (30), respectively. The superior workmanship of the departmental appliances also secured a number of orders from outside the province. As a help to the kosa weavers attempts were made to find market for the waste tasar silk which practically fetches no value. Tasar waste valued at above Rs. 600 was sold to a silk spinning mill in Mysore State. In addition to the above appliances five niwar weaving frames were introduced by the demonstration party.

(*b*) *Experiments*—(i) *Experimental weaving shed.*—Experiments in weaving artistic varieties in curtain, purdahs, bedspreads, netting curtain cloth, upholstery materials, durries, carpets, shirting and coatings, etc., were continued at the Government experimental weaving shed. The furnishing materials manufactured at the weaving shed gained increased popularity and a large number of orders for these materials were received in and outside the province. The total sale of cloth woven at the weaving shed amounted to Rs. 2,047 (Rs. 2,869), besides the value of cloth manufactured in the weaving shed and supplied through the Central Provinces and Berar Weavers' Co-operative Society. The value of such orders

placed by the Government departments and private persons which were executed by the Society under the supervision of the staff of the textile section amounted to about Rs. 5,000.

(ii) *Sericulture.*—The scheme for the introduction of sericultural (mulberry silk) industry in this province is financed partly from the Government of India grant and partly from provincial revenues. The work of plantation of mulberry at the five seed distribution stations, *i.e.*, Nagpur, Seoni, Betul, Saugor and Pendra Road with cuttings obtained from outside the provinces was completed during the year. Experiments in growing mulberry from seed obtained from Bengal were made and seedlings obtained from the seed would be raised as tree mulberry. Silk worm rearing was done at the above stations with the available quantity of leaves and reeling of silk from cacoons produced from the above rearings was done at Nagpur on the improved reeling machine obtained from Bhagalpur and in the operation of which three local men were trained. Over 10 lb. of silk valued over Rs. 80 was produced and is used in the weaving shed for weaving of coating and shirting. Mulberry cuttings were supplied for plantation to Government agricultural farms at Jubbulpore, Khandwa, Sindkheda, Labhandi, Chandkhuri, Raipur, Drug, Bilaspur, Saugor, Tharsa and to two or three private persons. The work carried on at the above stations and the demonstrations given at the various exhibitions, shows and village-uplift classes has created considerable interest and number of inquiries are received from people for starting the industry. Necessary assistance in mulberry plantation would be given to the people interested in the industry during the coming rainy season by supplying them with cuttings and instructions in plantation work.

(iii) *Eri silk.*—Work in rearing of eri silk worms was undertaken at the Nagpur station along with that of mulberry silk worms. Two broods were successfully reared and over 10 lb. of cacoons were produced. Spinning of silk from these cacoons is done on improved treadle charkhas in the operation of which a few local boys are trained. Eri silk worms thrive on castor leaves and though eri silk has not the same commercial value as the mulberry silk, it has the advantage that no separate plantation as in the case of mulberry is required to be raised and agriculturists who cultivate castor for seed can utilize the leaves for feeding the worms and can thus take up this industry as a spare time work without any extra cost.

(iv) *Tasar or kosa industry.*—The scheme for the development of the tasar industry is financed from the Government of India grant. The departmental work is concentrated in areas in Chanda and Bhandara districts where the industry still exists and is directed from the seed distribution stations at Armori and Sonder. During the year, 2,178 tolas of seed was produced at the two stations from cacoons mostly from departmental rearing and some from cacoons obtained from Chaibasa. Out of this, 1,466 tolas of seed were distributed to rearers and rearing of the remaining 712 tolas was done departmentally in leased forests. Unlike mulberry silk worm rearing, the tasar worms are reared in open on trees in the forests and they are therefore exposed to climatic conditions such as excessive rain,

drought, or severe cold, etc., which are beyond human control. Unfortunately the conditions during the year were not favourable and the results of work were not so encouraging as expected.

(v) *Wool.*—Experiments to spin better quality of yarn and weaving of blankets, carpets, etc., from local wool were continued and demonstrations in these were given at the village-uplift classes and exhibitions. A scheme for the development of cottage and small scale woollen industry in this province was submitted to Government of India for participation in the scheme for the development of this industry. As decided at the Conference held at Delhi in connection with the supply of Army blankets from the handloom industry, samples of army blankets were prepared according to specifications and submitted to the Chief Inspector of Stores for tests. This is the first time that properly milled all wool blankets were produced in this province, and all the work in processing them was done by manual labour without the aid of any machinery.

(vi) *Hosiery.*—Hoses and socks of different designs were prepared in the weaving shed, which had a good sale and some orders for these were also executed. Experiments were made to prepare knitted gloves and samples of these prepared according to the specifications were submitted to Chief Controller of Stores, New Delhi, for necessary tests.

(vii) *Minor Industries.*—Work in preparing articles like fringes for pugrees, putties, niwar, etc., was conducted at the weaving shed. and demonstrations in preparing these articles were given at the exhibitions and village-uplift classes with a view to interesting people to take up this work as a spare time industry.

(*c*) *Dyeing and Printing.*—The dyeing and printing demonstrator and his assistants continued to give demonstrations in the modern methods of dyeing and printing and visited 34 (24) centres of which 10 (9) were new. The staff gave 169 (121) demonstrations and trained 306 (111) persons. The progressive total of the centres visited by the section was 195 (185). Dyes valued at Rs. 49 (Rs. 20) were used for free demonstrations and the retail sales of dyes to dyers and printers amounted to Rs. 736 (Rs. 1,003). 6 (5) new dyeing and printing establishments were started and assistance was given to 20 (13) old ones. Besides the above all the dyeing required for the experimental weaving shed and about 50 per cent of the dyed yarn used by the Central Provinces and Berar Weavers' Co-operative Society, Limited, Nagpur, for the manufacture of articles for Government and other private orders was done by the staff. The activities of this section were somewhat hampered during the latter part of the year owing to the scarcity of dyes and chemicals after the outbreak of war.

(*d*) *Power-loom Weaving.*—Powerloom weaving as a cottage or small scale industry continued to make progress during the year. The total number of powerloom factories in the province at the end of the year was 198 (187) with 584 (544) looms. One powerloom teacher assisted by a mistry is stationed at Burhanpur and another powerloom teacher at Nagpur, in order to render help to the powerloom weavers in their work.

(e) *Weavers' Co-operative Societies.*—The grant from the Government of India was the same, *i.e.*, Rs. 24,400 as in the previous year. The Nagpur weavers society besides acting as a central society for financing the branch or affiliated societies, continued to manufacture varieties of new attractive designs in sarees. Orders for cloth from Public Works, Forest, Excise, Settlement Departments and for cloth of special varieties such as furnishing materials, which were received by the Textile section, were also executed. The value of such orders amounted to about Rs. 5,000. During the year under report raw materials worth Rs. 21,587 (Rs. 25,840) were purchased by the central society. Total sale of society's product amounted to Rs. 24,537 (Rs. 24,472). Besides the Nagpur society there were four other weavers' societies working during the year. Four more societies were registered during the year in addition to two societies registered during the previous year. The working of all the weavers' societies is directed by the staff of the textile section and the progress is much affected by the apathy of public to take responsibility for working such societies and by the lack of staff to do the propaganda and supervision work. There was a satyagraha by weavers of Umrer against the merchants with respect to the compulsory contribution to some charitable fund. A scheme was formulated so as to give relief to the needy weavers by supplying them with raw materials for their work through the Central Provinces and Berar Weavers' Co-operative Society, Limited, Nagpur.

(f) *Exhibitions.*—The textile branch participated in the exhibitions held at Nagpur and Harda, village-uplift classes held at Pattan, Chanda, Raipur, Bhandara, Drug, Betul and Khandwa and the Farmers Day at Tiker (Pendra Road), Seoni and Betul. Demonstrations in textile cottage industries and in rearing reeling and spinning of silk were given at these places.

13. **Grant-in-aid to All-India Spinners' Association.**—Grant-in-aid to the All-India Spinners' Association to a scheme formulated by it for the encouragement of hand spinning and hand weaving in rural areas was continued during the year. A grant-in-aid of Rs. 22,260 was sanctioned for the following:—

(1) Distribution of magan charkhas—Rs. 1,000.

(2) Expenses of training pupils—Rs. 1,560.

(3) Appointment of 40 workers to train the spinners in the efficiency of their craft—Rs. 7,700.

(4) Grant of commission to agents on the sales effected by them in Central Provinces and Berar—Rs. 12,000.

Total—Rs. 22,260.

The scheme was worked by the Central Provinces and Maharashtra Charkha Sangh and during the year an expenditure of Rs. 13,992 was incurred. Two hundred magan charkhas were given to the artisans. Out of 45 candidates admitted for training 34 completed the course and were employed to train the artisans in the efficiency of their art. 947 spinners were trained on single spindle charkha, 200 on two spindle magan charkha and 42 in carding process.

14. **Dead cattle centres.**—The scheme for the training of village chamars in the use of offal and skin flaying was continued during the year at Yeotmal and Wardha under the supervision of Mr. G. R. Valunjkar, Manager, Gosewa Charmalaya, Nalwadi, Wardha. At Yeotmal, 575 full grown and 429 calves and other carcasses were collected. As a large number of carcasses were collected during rainy season, they could not be exploited fully for want of a sufficient number of ovens and cauldrons which as experience showed were necessary instead of one each for each centre. Out of 575 big carcasses 80 were exploited which yielded 28 maunds of flesh manure, and 500 lb. of tallow.

At Wardha, 146 big and 149 small carcasses were collected. Ninety-five carcasses which were exploited yielded 30 maunds of manure and 600 lb. of tallow. The two centres yielded an income of Rs. 1,780 leaving 30 hides, 643 lb. tallow and 55 maunds of manure in stock against an expenditure of Rs. 6,925. The Bonemeal propaganda was discontinued as private individuals were not prepared to take a lead.

15. **Dead Cattle Institute, Nagpur.**—The Institute which was started last year as an experimental measure was continued during the year. The Institute secured 163 big and 282 small carcasses. The total income derived from the exploitation of dead animals was Rs. 743 leaving a stock valued at about Rs. 190 against the total expenditure of Rs. 2,878. The Institute was closed from the 1st March 1940.

The main difficulty in securing dead animals is the opposition from kotwars which continued at both the Yeotmal and Wardha centres and at the Nagpur Institute. The continued opposition resulted in securing a less number of carcasses, and unless this difficulty is overcome by enacting legislation the chances of success of the scheme appear to be remote.

16. **Emporium for products of village industries.**—The Emporium in the Central Museum, Nagpur, which is in charge of the Commercial Agent, continued to stock, display and sell products of the local industries. It maintains a wide collection of indigenous articles such as textile articles of zar, silk, kosa, cotton, wool and jute, brass and bell metal, ornaments and utensils, glasswares, wooden and soap stone toys, ceramic products and miscellaneous articles of every day use. The sale during the year amounted to Rs. 207 (Rs. 192). The utility of the Emporium is not to be judged merely by sale. Its most important function is to bring the manufacturers into touch with merchants and consumers and to display indigenous products at one central depot for the benefit of manufacturers and consumers. The Emporium took part in the following exhibitions :—

(1) Brussels Fair.

(2) Durgapuja Exhibition, Nagpur.

MUSEUM

17. The average daily number of visitors to the Central Museum during the year was 1,069 (905).

Archaeology.—Eighteen treasure trove finds of coins were discovered amongst which coins of Nala, Vijayanagar, Andhra and Shalivahana kings are represented and 15 gold, 103 silver

and 149 copper coins were acquired. The Museum collection of Jain, Buddhist and Hindu metal images are exhibited in the gallery. Plaster casts of statuette discovered at Mohenjodaro and twenty enlarged views of the archaeological sites in the province have been added. The prehistoric collection is rearranged and supplemented with bilingual explanatory labels.

Anthropology.—The Museum collections have been enriched by the addition of Gond and Korku articles. Ornaments used by the aboriginals of the province have been reclassified and arranged in new wall cases.

Arts and Industries.—Specimens of wood engraving from Central Provinces and abroad have been treated and displayed prominently. The Museum collections of old paintings have been exhibited together, each being provided with a mount and explanatory labels.

Economic section.—Specimens of agricultural products in the Central Provinces have been renewed. About 100 new samples of oil seeds, pulses, cereals, cotton, etc., have been introduced in the gallery. A new wall case exhibits samples of leather tanned with various tanning materials of the province.

Geology section.—The Museum collection of fossils has been supplemented with pictorial charts and illustrations to increase their educative value. A number of specimens have been acquired.

Natural history section.—Head of a wild buffalo shot in the Raipur district, two large pythons and a number of birds have been mounted and will be added to the galleries. The insect collections have been classified and relabelled. A chart to distinguish the poisonous from non-poisonous snakes has been constructed.

A guide lecturer has been appointed from 1st May 1939 who explains the Museum exhibits in Marathi and Hindi. Efforts were made to bring a closer contact with schools and the Museum and 39 schools visited the Museum. The guide lecturer took 536 rounds and explained to about 11,727 visitors.

The artist modeller was deputed for special training for three weeks at the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay.

The Museum Committee met on the 4th September 1939.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTELLIGENCE

18. **Trade statistics.**—During the cotton season of 1938-39 the total arrivals of kapas including ginned cotton in the cotton markets of the province were 5,61,212 (8,95,268) cart loads. The total number of bojas of cotton ginned in terms of 392 lb. each was 475,389 (759,591); whereas the number of bales pressed during the same period was 461,883 (753,792).

19. **Organized industries.**—The following brief account of the state of important organized industries in the province is based on the reports received from the industries concerned. During the first half year the condition of the textile industry was very dull. The prices of cloth and yarn went down and there was very little off take. As soon as the war broke out in September 1939 prices shot up in expectation of heavy war orders and

speculation was rampant. The prices reached their peak in the month of December 1939 but the mills could not enter into large business during this period at peak prices. The war boom lasted up to the end of January 1940 and then the prices went down. The prices of cloth and yarn did not, however, rise to the same extent as that of cotton. The local mills had to purchase cotton at 100 per cent more than its price before the war during the boom period. The prices of dyes, chemicals and stores also went up. The position was further aggravated as a result of the strike. In short the industry passed through a crisis during the concluding portion of the period under report. Owing to the rise in the prices of oil seeds and keen competition from mills in other provinces the condition of the oil industry was not very satisfactory. Since last year some of the oil mills have begun to manufacture double boiled linseed oil, pale boiled oil, varnishes and disinfectants, which were formerly imported from Bombay and Calcutta. The condition of glass factories continued the same as in the previous year. The Cement and the Asbestos Cement Companies have been progressing fairly satisfactorily. The condition of the match industry is no better than in the previous year. 550,420 (327,077) tons of manganese ore were exported from the province during the ten months of the calendar year 1939 (1st April 1939 to 31st January 1940) for which figures are now available. This shows a considerable rise in the export. The demand for the Central Provinces coal was fairly good, the raisings and despatches during the calendar year being 1,742,352 (1,658,023) and 1,626,137 (1,538,236) tons, respectively. Pharmaceutical drug industry had to face competition with the imported articles from other provinces.

20. Commercial and Industrial Intelligence Section.— The number of commercial and industrial enquiries dealt with in this section during the period was 250 (238). They may be classed under four main heads, namely:—

(1) Requests for names and addresses of industrial concerns manufacturing or dealing in particular goods in and outside the province.

(2) Enquiries regarding the sources of supply of various kinds of articles.

(3) Requests from firms to bring their goods to the notice of consumers and distributing agents.

(4) Miscellaneous enquiries.

In order to illustrate the wide range of references received, it may be mentioned that they included enquiries regarding hand-made and village articles, china clay, soap factories, electrical goods such as mac-lights or step stone transformers, maccommercions heaters, manufacture of household insecticides, paints, powerloom factories, marble quarries, leather works, mica-sheets, card-board boxes, oil-cakes, mosquito netting, dolomite lime, galena, binding cloth, eucalyptus oil, surgical and veterinary instruments and hospital appliances, structural slate stones and mahua oil. Particulars of new industries were also brought to the notice of commercial concerns in the province.

The number of enquiries indicate that the services of this branch have been appreciated by the public.

21. Help and advice given to private industrialists.—Some of the numerous cases in which help, advice and interviews were given to private firms and industrialists and Government departments and which have not been included in the preceding paragraph are mentioned below :—

A note on the manufacture of "katha" was supplied to Mr. Ramjee Lallje of Kharsia.

Information regarding match industry was supplied to Mr. Sirpurkar, B.A., LL.B., of Chhindwara.

A note on equipment for starting a hosiery factory was supplied to Mr. Biharilal of Bhatapara.

Information regarding manufacture of brushes was supplied to R. S. Vanjari of Nagpur.

A note on "ghee-making" was supplied to Mr. Chitale of Jubbulpore.

A note on gum from Sterculia urens (gum katila) was supplied to Seth Ballabhdass of Katni.

Information regarding machinery required for washing and toilet soap was supplied to Seth Haji Latif Haji Dawood of Raipur.

A note on the preparation of dry ginger was supplied to Mr. Bhikamchand of Khandwa.

A note regarding machinery for extracting gallic and tannic acid from myrobalan and preparation of stone slates was supplied to Mr. Shukla, M.Sc., LL.B., of Raipur.

Information regarding manufacture of ply-wood was supplied to the Proprietor, Shivaji Furniture Workshops, Nagpur.

Information regarding Fibrous materials available in the Central Provinces and Berar and their uses was supplied to the All-India Village Industries Association, Wardha.

A scheme for the training of about 10 artisans in the manufacture of brass articles, such as locks, badges, etc., was supplied to Mr. Chaturbhujbhai Jasani, M.L.A., of Gondia.

22. Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.—Seven new trade unions were registered and the certificate of one union was cancelled as it ceased to exist during the year. The number of unions on the register stood at 42 (36).

23. Trade Disputes Act, 1929.—Over a dispute regarding dearness allowance between the employees and the employers of the Empress and the Model Mills, Nagpur, the Nagpur Textile Union served on both the mills a notice of a general strike to commence on the 1st March 1940. The Provincial Government in pursuance of section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, appointed Mr. M. N. Clarke, District and Sessions Judge, Nagpur, as a Court of Inquiry by a notification, dated the 28th February 1940, and referred to it the dispute of a dearness allowance. The Court of Inquiry was of opinion that no dearness allowance should be given to the workmen in the textile industry at Nagpur.

The decision of the Court of Inquiry led the workers to resort to strike (followed by a lockout) which was however suspended on the issue of Government Communiqué, dated the

20th April 1940, which declared that Government was in the process of setting up a committee to examine the whole question of a dearness allowance to textile workers in Nagpur in the light of the decision arrived at in the Bombay and Ahmedabad disputes.

24. **Industrial Disputes.**—There was almost an epidemic of strikes and lockouts during the year under review. A major strike occurred when about 1,000 out of 1,045 workers of the Raja Gokuldas (Cotton, Spinning and Weaving) Mills, Jubbulpore, resorted to strike from the 13th June to the 11th September 1939 to keep the mills running which were however finally closed down. There were disputes also in the potteries and cement industry in the Jubbulpore district. But the greatest number of disputes occurred in the bidi industry in the districts wherein the Unregulated Factories Act and the Payment of Wages Act were recently applied to the bidi factories. Consequently a Bidi Industry Committee was constituted in September 1939 with comprehensive terms of reference. A detailed questionnaire has been circulated to all interests concerned. The total loss of working days occasioned by disputes come to about one lakh of days.

Where possible the good offices of the Government Labour Officer and of the Deputy Commissioners in charge of the districts were utilised with success to bring about settlement of disputes.

25. **Cost of living index numbers.**—The average cost of living index number for industrial workers for the year with January 1927 as the base (100) was 63 (61) at Nagpur and 59 (57) at Jubbulpore while with July 1914 as the base (100) it was 89 (86) at Nagpur and 92 (89) at Jubbulpore. Thus the average cost of living for the year taking January 1927 as the base, rose by 2 points both at Nagpur and Jubbulpore. The monthly index numbers of these two towns are published in the *Central Provinces and Berar Gazette*.

MISCELLANEOUS

26. **Industries and other conferences.**—The Eleventh Industries Conference and the sixth meeting of the Imperial Sericultural Committee and the fifth meeting of the Woollen Industry Committee were held at Mysore between the 15th and 18th December 1939. My predecessor Mr. Rege was not able to attend the meeting but the Textile Expert to Government attended all the meetings. Mr. Rege attended the Wheat Conference at Lahore and the two Price Control Conferences and one Labour Conference at New Delhi.

27. **Industrial Research Council.**—The fifth session of the Industrial Research Council which was held at Calcutta on the 7th and 8th August 1939 was attended by my predecessor.

28, **The Central Provinces and Berar State-aid to Indusries Act, 1933.**—The following three applications for aid under the Act were under the consideration of Government at the close of the previous year :—

(1) All-India Village Industries Association, Wardha.
(2) Baliram Kisan Sawarkar, Arvi.
(3) Amrit Match Factory, Bilaspur.

In the case of the All-India Village Industries Association, Wardha, Government sanctioned supply of wood at a concessional rate and in the case of Baliram Kisan Sawarkar a loan of Rs. 300 was sanctioned. The application of Amrit Match Factory, Bilaspur, was rejected.

The following three applications were received for aid under the Act:—

(1) Mr. D. V. Gokhale of Akola has applied for a loan of Rs. 600 for the manufacture of wooden foot rules required by school boys.

(2) Messrs. Nagpur Glass Works, Nagpur, have applied for a loan of Rs. 5,000 for the manufacture of lamp burners.

(3) Messrs. Central Glass Works, Nagpur, have applied for a loan of Rs. 5,000 for starting a bangle industry.

Number (1) is under the consideration of Government, No. (2) has withdrawn the application and No. (3) is pending for want of certain information.

29. **Industrial survey.**.—The Industrial Survey Committee appointed by Government under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. C. Kumarappa to carry out the industrial survey of the province has completed its labours during the year and the following reports have so far been published:—

Part I, Volumes I and II.

Part II, Volume I.

Part II, Volume II, is under preparation.

30. **All-India National Planning Committee.**—The Provincial Government co-operated with the National Planning Committee and paid a total contribution of Rs. 4,000. At the request of the Chairman, Rai Saheb P. K. Sen, officiating Deputy Director of Industries, Central Provinces and Berar, was appointed as the liaison officer between the Department of Industries and the National Planning Committee. I have now been appointed as the liaison officer, *vice* Rai Saheb P. K. Sen.

31. **Conclusion.**—The year under report was marked by the publication of the Report of the Industrial Survey Committee which reviewed the activities of the department in the past and made recommendations of a far reaching character for the reorganization and expansion of the Department of Industries as a separate and effective organization. Although I have no personal knowledge of the activities of the department during the period under review, the records contained in the report would show the progressive expansion of the activities of the department and I must take this opportunity of bringing the good work of the officers of the department to the notice of Government.

K. D. GUHA,

Director of Industries,

Central Provinces and Berar.

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